(a) and (b) Organisations like Indian Steel Alliance, TISCO and Essar Steel have opposed export of iron ore.

(c) The total export of iron ore during the last three years, year-wise is as follows:—

Year	Quantity (Million Tonnes)
2003-04	62.58
2004-05	78.15
2005-06 (Prov.)	89.27

(d) No, Sir. The major iron ore producing countries of the world, namely, Australia, Brazil and South Africa are exporting a majority of their production as iron ore rather than as finished products.

(e) Does not arise.

Re-opening of closed tea gardens in Darjeeling

875. SHRI SAMAN PATHAK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to re-open the closed tea gardens in Darjeeling; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH):

(a) and (b) The Government of India and the Tea Board have been facilitating discussions between the managements of the closed tea gardens and their bankers with a view to arrive at a settlement for re-opening of the closed tea gardens in various States of the country. However, it is for the management of the individual closed gardens to work out the settlement with their bankers for re-opening the tea gardens.

ILL effects of weather on Coffee Growers

876. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that adverse whether conditions had severely affected the productivity of the coffee estates in the past;

(b) if so, the action taken by Government to provide relief to the coffee growers, whose productivity was affected by the adverse weather conditions; and

(c) whether Government have a long term policy to protect the coffee growers from the ill effects of the adverse weather conditions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) In the past, coffee growing regions were affected by drought conditions and build up of temperature which are conducive for the white stem borer pest to manifest and spread rapidly in growing tracts.

(b) The Coffee Board launched the 'Catch and Kill Programme' during 2004-05 under which growers were provided incentives for mechanically collecting grubs and adult pests which helped in considerable reduction in the pest population. Further, such planters were also provided with free of cost seedlings to replace the borer affected plants.

Further, the Agriculture Insurance Company of India Ltd. (AIC) in consultation with Coffee Board introduced a weather and yield risk management product *viz.* the Coffee Rainfal Index and Area Yield insurance (CRIAY) on a pilot basis in three coffee growing districts of Karnataka during March 2005 with the objective to cover the risks arising out of rainfall and yield.

(c) The Govt. of India in consultation with Coffee Board and the Agricultural Insurance Company of India Ltd. (AIC) is working out modalities of Coffee Weather (Rainfall) Insurance Scheme to provide insurance to Coffee growers against deficit/excess rainfall in all major coffee growing States.

SEZs in Andhra Pradesh

877. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Special Economic Zones in Andhra Pradesh, sector-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that an IT-product-specific Special Economic Zone was inaugurated recently at Keesarpali village in Krishna District of that State;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the State Government is very keen to develop Vijayawada, Visakhapatnam, Tirupati, Warrangal, Guntur and Nellore as Tier-II cities, besides Hyderabad, for the promotion of IT Industry; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?